(c) if not, the reaasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The gas from onshore/isolated fields in Gujarat is supplied through dedicated regional networks or spur lines to customers in the state. In these cases, transmission tariff is computed on the basis of investment in the respective regional networks. As the fields are located in Gujarat, the investment in regional networks for supplying gas to customers in the state would be less in relation to investment in network catering to a number of states and, therefore, the transmission tariff for customers in Gujarat getting gas through regional networks is lower.

In case of trunk lines, *viz.*, Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) pipeline and Dahej-Vijaipur pipeline (DVPL), a combined single tariff of Rs. 831/MSCM, with escalation formula, is being followed w.e.f. 1-6-2006. However, the tariff for connectivity of Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) to DVPL has been kept at Rs. 280/MSCM.

Supply of Kerosene oil to Maharashtra

1196. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether quantity of kerosene oil being supplied in Maharashtra is inadequate as a result of which people in several parts of Maharashtra are unable to get kerosene oil;

(b) the details of quantity of kerosene oil supplied to Maharashtra against their demand during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for ensuring that supply of kerosene oil is commensurate with its demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) PDS kerosene is an allocated product. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes quarterly allocation of PDS kerosene to States/Union Territories for further distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) network. The quantity of PDS SKO for distribution per card holder is decided by concerned State Govt./ UT and the same varies from State to State.

The quantity of PDS SKO allocated to the State Government of Maharashtra during the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are 1276876 Metric Tonnes (MTs) in each year. As per provisional figures available on upliftment of PDS Kerosene in the State of Maharastra during April to December, 2007, the State Government has uplifted 99.5% of PDS SKO. There is no shortage of kerosene reported in the State of Maharashtra. As of 05.03.08, the public sector oil marketing companies had overall Kerosene stocks at their supply locations in the State of Maharashtra which would last for 14 days of supplies.

(c) In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, SKO allocation for distribution under the PDS was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. There has been no reduction in the PDS SKO to States/UTs after the financial year 2004-05. For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, allocations have been maintained at the level of

2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. Allocations for 2007-08 have also been maintained at the same level.

In view of requests received from various State Governments including Maharashtra for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned the detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. NCAER submitted its report in October 2005. NCAER has *inter alia* recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only.

Further, in order to formulate a long-term pricing policy, the Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to examine different aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products with a view to stabilizing/rationalizing their prices. The Committee submitted its report on 17.2.2006. The Committee has also *inter alia* recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided 'in principle' that subsidy on PDS kerosene be limited to BPL families only. The proposal to work out the modalities to implement this decision and for rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene among States/UTs is under the consideration of the Government.

Approval of Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Use of Fuel) Regulation Bill

1197. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat submitted the Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Use of Fuel) Regulation Bill to the Central Government for approval in February, 2005;

(b) whether it is still lying pending with the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Use of Fuel) Regulation Bill, 2005, for seeking the approval of the Government of India before its introduction in the State Legislature, was received by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on 17th Feb. 2005. It has been informed by MHA that the State Legislations are examined from three angles viz. (i) repugnancy with Central Laws (ii) deviation from National or Central Policy and (iii) legal and constitutional validity. In the case of the Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Use of Fuel) Regulation Bill, 2005 there are policy issues, which need to be sorted out and no time-frame can be fixed for achieving the same.

Mining of gas hydrates

1198. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has around 2000 trillion cubic feet of prognostic reserves